pletely phasing out of the grant by Government; and

(c) whether Government propose to treat the grant as "export promotional expenses" which are to only Rs. 250 crores through expori so as to save closure of 19FP council which are left with no other option except closure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c) It has been decided to phase out the grant-in-aid to the Export Promotion Councils w.e.f. 1-4-1992 in a phased manner. This decision has been taken keeping in view the economic liberalisation policies pursued by the Government since July, 1991 and also to make these promotional agencies more self supporting and self relating and industry run professional bodies. The role of the Export Promotion Councils has been clearly recognised in the current Exim Policy and the Registration-cum-Membership Certificate has been made compulsory for all persons applying for any licence to import or export or for any other benefit or concession under the said policy. The EPCs have other sources of income as well and do not depend on Government grant only. The Government support to EPCs depends on factors mentioned in para 150 of the said policy. In terms of para 149 of Exim Policy, they are autonomous and regulate their own affairs. As such, this decision is not likely to render the employees of these Councils jobless or force closure of these agencies.

COVER BY INSURANCE COMPANY IN RESPECT OF EARTHQUAKES

2574. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that no Insurance company in India offers a specific cover in respect of earthquakes; and

(b) if so, what corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) While there is no exclusive cover for earthquake risk, a specific cover for this risk is available as an additional peril alongwith Fire Insurance cover. This cover is granted automatically under Fire Insurance Policy offered for simple risks namely households, buildings, shops and establishments, tiny sector and smal lscale industries, etc. This is also granted as an additional peril in respect of Industrial and manufacturing risks on payment of extra premium. In view of this, it is not considered necessary to introduce an exclusive cover for earthquake risk.

AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL

2575. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sign two agreements with Israel, regarding avoidance of Double Taxation and protection of investment in each other's country; and

(b) Is so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Government of India has yet to enter into negotiations for concluding a double taxation avoidance agreement with Isreal.

Government of India is in the process of devising a model bilateral investment protection agreement. The issue of entering into a bilateral investment protection agreement with Israel will be decided thereafter.

(b) In view of reply to part (a) of the Question, reply to this part does not arise.

RESTORATION OF EXCISE DUTY ON CERTAIN EQUIPMENT

2576. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that under notification number 83|93 dated April 23, 1993 Central Excise duty on certain equipments such as heat-exchangers, under heading 84.19 sub-heading 8419.00 had been restored from 110 per cent to 15 per cent; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether representations have been received for giving retrospective effect to the notification of April 23, if so, the decision taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the absence of a concessional rate of duty with effect from 1-3-1993, machinery, plant and laboratory equipment for treatment of material by condensing or cooling became liable to duty at the tariff rate of 110 per cent. The Government subsequently issued Notification No. 83|93-CE dated 23-4-1993, prescribing a concessional rate of duty of 15 per cent advl. on such goods. Representations have been received for issue of Notification|corrigendum to ensure that no demands are raised on the assessees manufacturing and clearing such goods during the period from 28-2-1993 to 22-4-1993. Field formations have been advised not to take coercive action on this issue.

नरसिम्हा समिति द्वारा की गई सिफारिशें

2577. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) नरसिम्हा समिति द्वारा की गई मुख्य सिफारिशों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या सरकार इस समिति द्वारा की गई सिफारिशों को लागू करने का विचार रखती है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है और इन सिफारिशों को कब तक क्रियान्वित किए जाने की संभावना है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. अवरार अहमद) : (क) से (घ) नरसिम्हा समिति की सिफारिश जिन्हें कार्यान्वित किया जा चुका है, में ये शामिल हैं--सांविधिक चल निधि अनुपात (एसएलआर) और प्रारक्षित नकदी निधि अनुपात (सीआरआर) में कमी, ब्याज दर ढांचे को सरल बनाना, पूंजी पर्याप्तता, आय की पहचान और प्रावधान संबंधी अपेक्षाओं से संबंधित मानदंडों का निर्धारण, बेहतर सुस्पष्टता सुनिश्चित करने के लिये तुलन-पत्र और लाभ-हानि फार्मेट की पुनरीक्षा, शाखा लाइसेंसिंग संबंधी भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के मार्गनिर्देशों में संशोधन, भारतीय औद्योगिक वित्त निगम (आईएफजीआई) को एक कंपनी में बदलना, नये निजी क्षेत्र के बैंकों के प्रवेश संबंधी दिशा-निर्देश जारी करना, पूंजी बाजार से उदारीकरण से जुड़े उपाय, भारतीय प्रतिभूति और एक्सचेंज बोर्ड (सेबी) को सांविधिक शक्तियां प्रदान करना, कर-रियायत के क्षेत्र में विभिन्न म्युचुअल फंडों को समान व्यवहार आदि । अभी भी समिति की प्रमुख विचाराधीन सिफारिशें ये हैं : ग्रामीण ऋण ढांचा, बैंकों और संस्थाओं द्वारा आयकर अधिनियम के अधीन बनाये गये विशिष्ट प्रावधानों के व्यकलन की क्षमता और बैंकों में अधिकारियों की भर्ती का विकेन्द्रीकरण ।

प्राथमिकता क्षेत्र ऋणों को कम करके कुल ऋण के 10% तक करने और अशोध्य और संदिग्ध ऋणों को हाथ में लेने के लिये देश व्यापी परिसंपत्ति पुनर्निर्माण निधि की स्थापना और भारतीय औद्योगिक विकास बैंक को विभाजित करने से संबंधित सिफारिशें सरकार द्वारा स्वीकार नहीं की गई हैं ।

MERGER OF BANKS

2578. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to merge some of the Nationalised Banks with one another; and

(b) if so, the details and terms thereof;